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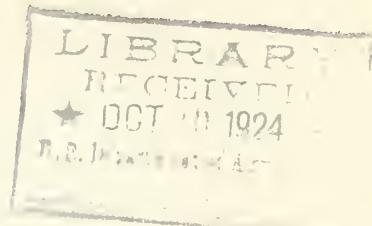
THE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF EUROPE.

FRANCE.

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## AN AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF FRANCE.

This paper presents an analysis of the trend of agricultural production in France. Its purpose is to give to the reader in few words a survey of those economic factors necessary for an accurate appraisal of the agricultural tendencies of the French nation. In France, as in many other European countries, such an analysis involves more than a simple study of production and trade statistics. One of the greatest difficulties is that the comparison of a pre-war period with the present post-war period involves a change of national boundaries.

This change of boundary involves the combining of two or more pre-war areas in which the statistics are not comparable. For example, pre-war agricultural data in Alsace Lorraine under German rule is in many cases not comparable to post-war data applying to the same territory under French supervision. For this reason, it has been thought best to deal in a statistical way with France proper (area as of 1914), leaving Alsace Lorraine as the subject of a separate study.

### Population.

An economic survey of any important industry of France requires at least a brief analysis of her population status. France differs from other leading nations of the world in regard to growth - or rather lack of growth - of population. This difference has a direct bearing upon international phases of her agriculture.

From the standpoint of the world as a whole, one of the pressing economic problems is that of increasing the food supply at a rate proportional to the increase of population. Healthy economic and social conditions demand that a major portion of the civilized inhabitants of the world be substantially fed and sufficiently clothed. This demand calls not only for ever-increasing amounts of the products of the soil but for smooth adjustments in their distribution, in order that surplus products may find their way to deficit areas. For surplus producing nations the pressing problem is that of finding profitable markets abroad. For deficit producing nations the task is one of financing the outside purchases through the medium of surplus production in industries other than agriculture.

The agricultural policies of any nation are likely to be influenced by the present and estimated future consumption demands of that nation for the products of agriculture. One index to future demands is the rate of growth of a nation's population.

The population of France has a tendency to decrease. In this respect France presents a notable exception to the usual. This contrast is brought out by comparing the rate of increase with that of a neighboring and kindred country long settled and well established, and with a newly settled rapidly expanding country. This comparison is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Comparison of the Growth of Population in France,  
Italy and the United States, 1820 - 1920.

Year	France 1/		Italy 2/		United States 3/	
	Increase:	Population	Increase:	Population	Increase:	Population
	Decrease:	Number	Decrease:	Number	Decrease:	Number
1820 . . . . .	31,161,000		19,727,000		9,638,000	
1840 . . . . .	34,911,000	12.0	21,976,000	11.4	17,069,000	77.1
1860 . . . . .	37,386,000	7.1	25,000,000	13.8	31,443,000	84.2
1880 . . . . .	39,239,000	5.0	28,460,000	13.8	50,156,000	59.5
1900 . . . . .	40,681,000	3.7	32,475,000	14.1	76,149,000	51.8
1920 . . . . .	4/ 39,210,000	-3.6	38,836,000	19.6	105,827,000	39.0

Annuaire Statistique de la France, 1922.

1/ For same territory as of 1920.

2/ Territory as of 1914 except for 1920 which includes actual area at that date.

3/ Continental.

4/ The most populous period for the continental territory now occupied by France was in 1910. At that time her population was 41,479,000.

France has on the same territorial area no more people now than she had in 1880 - 40 years ago. Her increase during the past century does not exceed 30 per cent. During the same period Italy has doubled the number of her inhabitants, while that of the United States has increased by the multiple of 11. Furthermore, France has experienced a noticeable decline during the last 20 years. Much of this latter decline was, of course, due to war losses. Roughly speaking, France lost 1,400,000 men who were directly involved in war operations. In addition to this number the excess of deaths over births among the civil population during the war years account for more than another million decrease. This decrease is shown by years in Table 2.

Table 2 - Comparison of Birth and Death Rates among Civil Population in France during the War, 1914-1918.

Year	Births	Deaths	Excess of Deaths	
			Number	over Births
1914 . . . . .	594,222	647,549	53,327	
1915 . . . . .	323,466	646,301	317,835	
1916 . . . . .	315,087	607,742	292,655	
1917 . . . . .	343,310	613,148	269,838	
1918 . . . . .	399,041	788,816	389,775	
Total . . . . .	1,980,126	3,303,556	1,323,430	

Annuaire General de la France et de l'Etranger.

But this condition of stationary or diminishing population cannot be explained as the effect of war alone. An increase of less than 30 per cent in 100 years is the result of more deeply rooted causes than those directly connected with military conflicts.

Has France reached the "saturation point"? One must infer that she has not, when her density is compared with that of other European countries having no greater natural resources than herself.

The density of population of a number of countries is given in Table 3.

Table 3 - Density of Population per square mile in eleven countries.

Country	:	Year	:	Population per sq. mile 1/
	:		:	Number
FRANCE .....	:	1921	:	184
British Isles .....	:	1921	:	391
Denmark .....	:	1921	:	192
Switzerland .....	:	1920	:	243
Germany .....	:	1919	:	326
Netherlands .....	:	1920	:	518
Belgium .....	:	1920	:	635
Italy .....	:	1921	:	326
China .....	:	1920	:	275
Japan .....	:	1920	:	484
United States .....	:	1920	:	36

Annuaire Statistique de la France.

1/ Converted from number per square kilometer by factor 2.5898

Although five times as densely populated as the United States, France is not thickly settled when compared with her immediate neighbors. Belgium has three times as many inhabitants per square mile. The Netherlands has nearly as many as Belgium, while the British Isles is twice as thickly populated as is France.

The decrease is not due to emigration. The movement of French people to other lands has never been large, and during the past 10 years it has practically ceased. Likewise is her immigration an insignificant factor. In 1921 there were less than a quarter of a million naturalized citizens and around 1,500,000 foreigners within her boundaries.

Whatever the economic causes, the biological result is a low birth rate with its accompanying small families. The birth rate in France in 1922 was only 1.94 per 100 inhabitants, which is the lowest birth rate shown by any of the important countries of the world.

For the most part French families are small. A majority have two children or less. The small sized family, the low birth rate, together with little or no immigration are important direct causes in the lack of growth of population. Back of these direct causes, are social, economic and legal conditions which constitute the basic causes for small families, low birth rate and lack of immigration. It is not within the scope of this study to discuss these basic conditions. The only purpose of presenting a few details on the status of the population is to emphasize the fact that France has a stationary or slightly decreasing population, and above all to show that this condition is not of a temporary or mere passing state.

In many countries the agricultural policy is based on the need of an increased food supply in order to meet the needs of an ever increasing population. One can readily see from the information just submitted that increasing population exerts no pressure on the agricultural policy of France.

#### The Agricultural Population.

France is essentially an agricultural country. In 1911, 50 per cent of her inhabitants were in rural districts and in towns and villages having less than 2,000 inhabitants. But in France as in the United States there is considerable alarm over the "drift" to the city. The extent of this drifting tendency is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 - Rural and Urban Population in France.

Year	Rural		Urban	
	Per cent		Per cent	
1790 .....	78		22	
1850 .....	75		25	
1911 .....	58		42	

The predominance of agriculture as an industry is further brought out by the fact that of all those gainfully employed in 1911 over 40 per cent were engaged in agriculture. Table 5 gives this comparison:

Table 5 - Population gainfully employed, by occupations,  
in France, 1911.

Occupation	Population Employed	
	Number	Per cent
Agriculture .....	8,517,000	40.7
Industry .....	5,746,000	27.4
Commerce .....	2,053,000	9.8
Transportation .....	1,543,000	7.4
Public Service .....	1,292,000	6.2
Domestic Service .....	929,000	4.4
Liberal Professions .....	550,000	2.6
Mines & Quarries .....	246,000	1.2
Fisheries .....	55,000	.3
All Occupations .....	20,931,000	100.0

Annuaire General de la France et de l'Etranger.

In a country with a rapidly increasing population like the United States a decrease in the proportion of people living in the country may not be serious. The proportion living in the city may increase while the rural districts are at the same time receiving a healthy increase in absolute numbers. But in a nation with a non-increasing population, an increase in city numbers means an absolute decrease in rural population. In fact, it is the farm that suffers from this decrease in number of inhabitants. It is the rural districts that lose their people. The population status assumes serious proportions because of its direct relation to the welfare of agriculture.

#### Farm Labor.

In traveling through the rural districts of France, one is struck by the noticeable minority of young and middle-aged men on the farms. Of the 8,517,000 gainfully employed in agriculture in 1911, 3,238,000 were women. On all sides one sees old men, women and children doing the greater part of the work in the fields.

Discussions and writings on the subject have a pessimistic tone. The press carries accounts of the poorer lands being abandoned because of lack of sufficient farm labor at a rate the farmer can afford to pay. There seems to be a strong feeling that the task of tilling the soil is falling to workers who remain on the land because of their unsuitability for other industrial occupations, and that the recruits are not capable of shouldering the responsibility of an increased and improved agriculture. Keen regret is expressed because agriculture is becoming dependent to an increasing extent upon foreign labor. Two statements taken from a conservative economic journal are given as indicating reliable opinion.

"An official of the Department of Agriculture, after visiting the naturally fertile district of Limagne, stated in December last that in certain communes a third of the land was lying fallow through lack of farmers, to which a deputy for the district added: 'The land only exists by the labor of the old men, as all the young ones are leaving; and when these old men shall have worked themselves to death, then will the land die too.'"

The author continues:

"The situation in at least one-third of France is desperate; in many districts the land is only tilled by old men, women and foreign hirelings. The number of young men is ever becoming smaller, their sole idea being to keep a small shop or find a small situation in the towns. If the supply of situations equalled the demand, tomorrow the country would be drained of three-fourths of its working population." (1)

Even though one be inclined to discount a portion of these misgivings, it must be admitted that the absolute decrease in numbers of able-bodied workers in so basic an industry as agriculture, is just cause for national alarm.

Table 6 gives a comparison of the daily wages of agricultural laborers in representative districts for the years 1911 and 1921. As will be seen by this table, agricultural wages in 1921 in francs were over four times those of 1911. During the same period, however, the value of the franc had diminished to about one-third its par value. Roughly speaking, the French farmer paid 65 cents per day for labor in 1911 and \$1.06 per day in 1921 - this without board.

(1) M. Pierre Caziot, Journée Industrielle, July 20, 1923. Quoted from the Economic Review, October 12, 1923.

Table 6 - Wage Rates of Agricultural Workers not Supplied with Food,  
1911 and 1921.

Department	1911 1/		1921 2/	
	U. S.		U. S.	
	Original	equivalent	Original	equivalent
	Francs	Dollars	Francs	Dollars
Aisne .....	3.30	.637	16.00	1.197
Alpes (Basses) .....	3.50	.676	12.00	.898
Alpes (Hautes) .....	3.50	.676	10.00	.748
Ardèche .....	2.50	.482	11.00	.823
Ariège .....	3.00	.579	10.00	.748
Aude .....	3.00	.579	15.00	1.122
Bouches-du-Rhône .....	4.00	.772	16.00	1.197
Charente .....	3.00	.579	10.00	.748
Cher .....	3.60	.695	16.00	1.197
Corse .....	2.25	.434	13.00	.972
Creuse .....	4.00	.772	12.00	.898
Dôme .....	3.50	.676	13.50	1.010
Eure .....	3.50	.676	10.00	.748
Gard .....	3.00	.579	10.00	.748
Hérault .....	3.00	.579	14.00	1.047
Isère .....	3.25	.627	15.00	1.122
Jura .....	4.00	.772	16.50	1.234
Loire .....	3.50	.676	15.00	1.122
Lot .....	3.00	.579	14.00	1.047
Nord .....	3.50	.676	24.00	1.795
Orne .....	3.00	.579	10.00	.748
Pas-de-Calais .....	2.90	.560	18.00	1.346
Puy-de-Dôme .....	3.25	.627	16.00	1.197
Pyrénées (Basses) .....	3.00	.579	12.00	.898
Pyrénées Orientals .....	3.50	.676	13.00	.972
Sâone (Haute) .....	3.50	.676	15.00	1.122
Sâone-et-Loire .....	3.50	.676	17.00	1.272
Seine-et-Marne .....	4.00	.772	19.00	1.421
Seine-et-Oise .....	4.50	.869	16.00	1.197
Somme .....	3.00	.579	17.00	1.272
Tarn-et-Garonne .....	3.50	.676	12.00	.898
Var .....	3.50	.676	15.00	1.122
Vosges .....	3.75	.724	15.00	1.122
Yonne .....	3.65	.704	15.50	1.159
Average .....	3.35	.647	14.22	1.064

Estimates supplied by the "Conseil de Prud'Hommes" to the International Labor Bureau, Geneva.

1/ The French franc in 1911 was worth 19.30¢.

2/ The French franc in 1921 had an average value for the year of 7.48 cents.

Table 7 contains an analysis of farm wages for 1922 classified by tasks and by sex. In general the monthly wages for men with board is below 200 francs (around \$16.00 per month). This is for the highest skilled labor mentioned in the table - that of teamsters. The wages of general laborers run less. The male day laborer who receives food but not lodging seldom receives over 10 francs per day (82¢) while the women are paid about half that sum.

Table 7 - Agricultural Wages in France, Classified by Occupational Groups and Sex, in representative Departments, - 1922.

Department :	Monthly wage rates of farm servants			Daily wage rates of day laborers		
	Cow- Carters	Shep- herds	General : hers	Female : ers	Provided with food.	Not provided with food.
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Ardennes..	15-20	12-17	12-17	11-15	8-11 : .66-.98	.25-.41:1.07-1.56: .57-.82
Dordogne..	---	---	---	6- 8	--- : .49-.66	.41-.49: .98-1.15: .90-.98
Doub. ....	12-25	10-25	---	7-10	--- : .98-1.64: .49-.98	.1.23-2.05: .66-1.23
Eure .....	12-16	12-16	13-16	12-15	7-10 : .41-.49	.33-.41: .98-1.47: .82-1.07
Indre ....	18-25	10-20	25-31	12-20	12-16 : ---	--- : --- : ---
Aube .....	---	---	---	12	8 : ---	--- : --- : ---
Isère ....	10-12	9-13	---	9-11	5- 7 : .49-.82	.33-.57: .74-1.15: .57-.98
Lot & Garonne	---	---	14-16	12-16	--- : .66-.82	.41-.49:1.07-1.23: .74-.90
Manche ...	10-13	8-11	8-13	7-12	7-10 : ---	--- : --- : ---
Haute Savoie	---	10-14	10-14	8-12	4- 6 : .66-.82	--- : .1.15-1.47: ---
Seine & Oise)						
and )	12-15	15-18	12-14	.33-.49	8-10 : .41	.25 : .98 : .66
Seine & Marne) 2/	2/	3/	3/	4/		
Seine Infér- ieure ...						
Vendée ....	---	---	---	9-11	5- 8 : .41-.49	.33-.41: --- : ---
Nord .....	18-20	16-20	---	11-16	8-11 : .66-.98	.41-.66: .98-1.31: .57-.82
Puy de Dôme:	14-16	12-16	8-10	12-16	8-12 : ---	--- : --- : ---
Sarthe ....	15-18	---	---	8-13	4-12 : .49-.70	.25-.41: .98-1.15: .66-.98
			Per annum			
Cher .....	164-180	82-98	98-115	82-164	98-147 : .82-.98	.41-.49:1.23-1.39: .66-.82
Côte du Nord:	164	---	---	---	82 : .49	.25 : --- : ---
Gers ....	---	---	---	123-197	--- : .66-.82	.25-.41: .98-1.23: .49-.66
Deux Sèvres:	287-328	246-328	82-98	287-328	98-164 : .82-1.23	.41-.66:1.47-1.64: .66-.98
Tarn et Garonne. :	147	147	---	41-66	5/	--- : --- : .74-.98 : .41-.66

Compiled by the International Labor Bureau, Geneva, from information published in "La Main d'Oeuvre Agricole" June and July 1922.

1/ Converted from francs on basis of average value of franc in 1922 - 8.1935 cents.

2/ If without board \$16 to \$33 per month.

3/ The source does not indicate whether lodging is provided.

4/ Rate per day.

5/ Often lodged.

For purposes of comparison it is interesting to note the wages paid in the United States during the same periods.

Table 8 - Wages of Male Farm Labor in the United States by Geographic Division, 1910 and 1921.

Geographic divisions	Per month		Per day of harvest		Per day other than harvest	
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board
	1921	1910	1921	1910	1921	1910
North Atlantic	\$38.06	\$21.65	\$57.25	\$33.19	\$2.73	\$1.63:\$3.45
South Atlantic	\$22.33	\$13.77	\$32.26	\$19.75	\$1.59	\$1.07:\$1.97
East N. Central	\$34.98	\$22.94	\$48.84	\$31.81	\$2.68	\$1.75:\$3.33
West N. Central	\$35.53	\$25.10	\$49.90	\$35.45	\$3.03	\$2.01:\$3.72
South Central	\$22.72	\$15.28	\$33.10	\$21.90	\$1.63	\$1.14:\$2.04
Far Western	\$47.29	\$32.69	\$68.01	\$46.48	\$2.87	\$2.02:\$3.63
United States	\$30.14	\$19.21	\$43.32	\$27.50	\$2.24	\$1.45:\$2.79
Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1921.						

In 1921 the agricultural worker in France not supplied with food received around \$1.00 per day. During the same year the agricultural laborer not supplied with board in the United States received on the average \$2.22 per day. For harvest labor he received \$2.79.

The general all-around hand in France working by the month received in 1922 with board about 150 francs - between \$12.00 and \$12.50 for the month. The same class of labor received in the United States something like \$30.00 per month. On the whole it is safe to conclude that the agricultural wage scale is twice as high in the United States as in France.

In France women workers are common on the farms. They are employed in the stables as well as the fields. Their scale of wages is considerably lower than that of the men. It is not uncommon to find man and wife employed in pairs under the same working agreement. The woman agricultural laborer in France emphasizes the vast difference between the character of agricultural labor conditions in that country as compared to the United States. The difference lies not only in the wage scale, but it also emphasizes the accepted standards of rural life in the two countries. It brings out the additional fact that one country has a distinct agricultural laboring class composed of both sexes while the other country has no such class.

French agriculture is organized on the basis of a permanent laboring class. The diminution in numbers of the more efficient of this class is the basis of one of the difficult problems which French farmers now face.

The above statement is apt to lead one to conclude that farm wages furnish the explanation for labor's scarcity. No doubt the discrepancy between farm and factory pay is one of the explanations. The main problem, however, lies in the development of ways and means whereby the farmer is enabled to pay more. French agricultural practices involve much more hand labor than customarily used in America for performing the same task. Cutting hay with the scythe, raking hay by hand, binding grain by hand, binding straw by hand as it comes from the thresher, are typical of many practices still in common use.

Labor used in the performance of these tasks cannot be highly paid. Their earnings are limited by the products of their labor. Americans may be inclined to dismiss the problem with the suggestion that labor-saving machines should displace these practices. Such advice, however, is not generally applicable. Small holdings, long distances between dwellings and fields, small but widely separated fields (strip farming), which practices, welded together by the customs of centuries, make changes difficult.

Without question the agricultural labor conditions in France go a long way in explaining the tendency toward increased livestock production and to the more extensive types of farming.

#### Size of Farms.

A discussion of the economic phases of French agriculture would be lacking in fundamental considerations if it did not deal in some measure with the size of farm holdings. Especially is this true from the point of view of comparison with American agriculture because of the wide difference between the size of holdings in America and in France.

The last general agricultural census taken in France was in 1892. Although applying to conditions of 30 years ago, these data have much significance. Habits, customs and practices change much more slowly in the old world than in our own country. In the United States there is a saying that "every farm is for sale." In France it could be said with an equal degree of accuracy as representing a tendency that "no farm is for sale". Although there are many more land transactions since the war than formerly, land changes hands less frequently in France than in the United States.

The "Merite Agricole" furnishes a good illustration of the tendency toward continuous occupation of the same land by the same family. The "Merite Agricole", an honorary badge, has been awarded by the French Government to farmers whose families have been on the same land for more than a century. Many French families have received this honorary recognition. One farm family is able to trace the connection of its ancestry with the land for a period of 900 years. Two, three and four hundred years are not uncommon records.

In addition to the last agricultural census report of 1892, the French Government made a special inquiry on "Small Rural Properties" in 1908 - 1909, which inquiry is valuable in indicating the tendency since 1892.

Table 9 gives the number of farms classified by size in 1892.

Table 9 - Farms classified by size in France, 1892.

Size	:	Number
Less than 1 hectare <sup>1/</sup>	2-1/2 acres .....	2,235,405
1 to 5 hectares, 2-1/2 to 12-1/2 acres ...	:	1,829,259
5 to 10 hectares, 12-1/2 to 25 acres .....	:	788,299
10 to 20 hectares, 25 to 49 acres .....	:	429,407
20 to 30 hectares, 49 to 74 acres .....	:	189,664
30 to 40 hectares, 74 to 99 acres .....	:	92,047
40 to 50 hectares, 99 to 124 acres .....	:	53,343
50 to 100 hectares, 124 to 247 acres .....	:	52,048
100 to 200 hectares, 247 to 494 acres .....	:	22,777
200 to 300 hectares, 494 to 741 acres .....	:	6,223
More than 300, 741 acres .....	:	4,280
Total .....	:	5,702,752

Statistique Agricole de la France, Enquête de 1892.

<sup>1/</sup> One hectare = 2.471 acres.

Over four-fifths of the total number of holdings were less than 10 hectares, 24.7 acres, in size. Less than one per cent exceeded 100 hectares, 247 acres, in size. Nearly half of the total number of holdings were less than 1 hectare in size. It should be explained that the large number of holdings of this size are not, strictly speaking, agricultural holdings, but market gardens, small vineyards and for the most part plots attached to cottages of farm laborers.

Table 10 - Per cent of Number and Area in France of Farms Occupied, Classified According to Size, 1892.

Size	:	Area		
		Farms	Not	:
		Cultivated	Cultivated	Total
	:	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Less than 1 hectare <sup>1/</sup>	2-1/2 acres .....	39.20	2.88	1.35 : 2.69
1 to 10 hectares, 2-1/2 to 25 "	...	45.90	24.06	13.83 : 22.77
10 to 40 hectares, 25 to 99 "	...	12.47	30.00	21.96 : 28.99
Over 40 hectares, 99 "	...	2.43	43.06	62.86 : 45.55
All farms .....	:	100.00	100.00	100.00 : 100.00

Statistique Agricole, Enquête de 1892.

<sup>1/</sup> 1 hectare = 2.471 acres.

It will be noticed by Table 10 that the holdings of 10 hectares, 25 acres, and less, although representing about 85 per cent of the total number of farms, only occupy about one quarter of the total farm area. While farms of over 40 hectares, 99 acres, are less than 3 per cent of the total number, they occupy nearly one half the total farm area.

The type of farming and its relation to the size of farm is indicated in Table 11.

Table 11 - The Relation of Size of Farms in France to Type  
of Farming, 1892.

Item	Less than one hectare, 1/ 2½ acres.	One to ten hectares, 2½ to 25 acres.	Ten to forty hectares, 25 to 99 acres.	Over forty hectares, 99 acres.	Total
<b>Holdings:</b>					
Number .....	2,235,405	2,617,558	711,118	138,671	5,702,752
Per cent .....	39.20	45.90	12.47	2.43	100.00
<b>Cultivated area:</b>					
Plow land .....	1,777,884	16,442,034	20,678,564	25,064,094	63,962,576
Prairies, meadows, pastures & orchards .....	518,910	4,741,849	5,902,478	5,039,110	16,202,347
Vineyards .....	336,550	1,575,262	1,156,181	1,381,042	4,449,035
Gardens .....	191,750	406,727	306,651	274,528	1,179,656
Woods and forests .....	246,853	2,491,262	3,946,681	14,151,664	20,876,460
Total cultivated ..	3,071,947	25,657,134	31,990,555	45,910,438	106,630,074
<b>Not cultivated area</b> .....	207,811	2,128,519	3,377,857	9,670,753	15,384,940
<b>TOTAL AREA</b> .....	3,279,758	27,785,653	35,368,412	55,581,191	122,015,014

Statistique Agricole de la France, Enquête de 1892.

1/ One hectare equals 2.471 acres.

As is to be expected, the small holdings are devoted to tilled crops (plowed lands) vines and gardens. This is shown by the fact that the farms of more than 40 hectares, 99 acres, consisting of 2.4 per cent of the total number occupy over half the total area of woods and forests and over half the entire area of non-cultivated lands.

During the years 1882 to 1892 the size of holdings changed but slightly. Holdings under 10 hectares, 25 acres, slightly increased in number and holdings above 10 hectares, 25 acres, in size slightly decreased in number. (See Table 12)

Table 12 - Number and Size of Farms in France, 1882 and 1892.

Size	1882		1892	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total
Less than 1 hectare, <sup>1/</sup>	:	:	:	:
2-1/2 acres .....	2,162,000	38.22	2,235,000	39.20
1 to 10 hectares, 2-1/2	:	:	:	:
to 25 acres .....	2,635,000	46.46	2,618,000	45.90
10 to 40 hectares, 25	:	:	:	:
to 99 acres .....	727,000	12.82	711,000	12.47
Over 40 hectares,	:	:	:	:
99 acres .....	142,000	2.50	139,000	2.43
Total .....	5,672,000	100.00	5,703,000	100.00

Statistique Agricole de la France, Enquête de 1892.

<sup>1/</sup> 1 hectare = 2.471 acres.

This same tendency continued during the next decade. The investigation of 1908-09 shows that small holdings had increased during the preceding 20 years. In 1908, of the 87 departments into which France was then divided, the number of small holdings had increased in 42, remained stationary in 17 and decreased in 13. In 15 departments the data varied for the several districts.

It is interesting to compare the size of holdings in France with the average size of the farms in the United States. This difference in size is one of the factors which emphasizes the difference in practices employed.

Table 13 - Farms classified by size and geographic division in the United States, 1920

Geographic Divisions	Area		Size of farms										
	of land per farm	improved per farm	Total farms	Un- der to 3 : 3 : 9 : 19 : 49 : 99 : 174 : 259 : 499 : or over	10 : 10 : 19 : 49 : 99 : 174 : 259 : 499 : or over	20 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20 : 20	50 : 50 : 50 : 50 : 50 : 50 : 50 : 50 : 50	100 : 100 : 100 : 100 : 100 : 100 : 100 : 100 : 100	175 : 175 : 175 : 175 : 175 : 175 : 175 : 175 : 175	260 : 260 : 260 : 260 : 260 : 260 : 260 : 260 : 260	500 : 500 : 500 : 500 : 500 : 500 : 500 : 500 : 500	1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000 : 1000	
N. Atlantic ..	99.0	56.2	581,711	.7: 7.3: 7.7: 16.8: 27.2: 26.5: 9.0: 4.0: .6: .2									
S. Atlantic ..	84.4	41.9	1,158,976	.2: 4.9: 11.1: 34.6: 24.2: 15.1: 5.3: 3.3: 1.0: .8									
East N. Central	108.5	81.0	1,084,744	.2: 3.9: 4.2: 15.9: 30.9: 30.0: 10.0: 4.3: .5: .1									
West N. Central	234.3	156.2	1,096,951	.2: 2.0: 2.0: 7.4: 15.6: 32.0: 15.4: 18.0: 5.6: 1.8									
South Central	123.2	53.0	2,047,688	.2: 3.5: 11.1: 32.7: 23.0: 17.8: 5.4: 4.2: 1.3: .8									
Far Western ...	362.7	113.0	478,273	1.2: 7.0: 8.4: 17.0: 12.4: 16.5: 5.9: 17.4: 8.9: 5.3									
UNITED STATES	148.2	78.0	6,448,343	.3: 4.2: 7.9: 23.3: 22.9: 22.5: 8.2: 7.4: 2.3: 1.0									

Yearbook - United States Department of Agriculture - 1922.

Whereas fully four-fifths of the farms in France are of 10 hectares, 25 acres, or less, the bulk of the farms in the United States are between 20 and 175 acres.

France is a land of small farms well tilled. This fact goes a long way in explaining how a country one-fourteenth the size of the United States is able to grow the food for a population one-third as great.

#### Ownership and Tenancy.

The last reliable and complete figures on this important phase of farming is to be found in the agricultural census of 1892. Hence, Table 14 is given below merely as illustrating a tendency.

Table 14 - Farm Ownership and Tenancy in France, 1892.

Class	Farms		Area cultivated	
	Number	Per cent	Acres	Per cent
Occupying Owners ...	3,387,245	70.67	45,279,592	52.78
Cash Tenants .....	1,061,401	22.15	31,205,765	36.37
Share Tenants .....	344,168	7.18	9,308,257	10.85
Total .....	4,792,814	100.00	85,793,814	100.00

Statistique Agricole, Enquete 1892.

As has been stated, the large number of occupying owners is in part due to the fact that farm laborers owning their cottage plots are classed as occupying owners. The census of 1892 reported that 588,950 day laborers owned a piece of land.

The above figures are significant in that they show that nearly half the area is farmed by tenants, principally cash tenants.

It is the opinion of well informed observers that the depreciated franc has enabled many tenants to become occupying owners since the war, due to the fact that land values have not gone up as much as the franc has decreased.

#### Land Values.

It is extremely difficult to classify so variable a factor as land values. Not only are there innumerable qualities and prices of lands in the same locality, but these differences are multiplied by the several localities. The difficulty is emphasized by the space limitations of a brief survey attempting to cover all the economic phases of agriculture.

However, it is thought well to give some representative figures on pre-war and post-war land values as an indication of the trend of one of the important factors of agricultural conditions.<sup>1/</sup> Land values in 1913:

In Normandy the best grazing land ranged from \$141 to \$312<sup>2/</sup> per acre.

In Champagne, with its poor lime soil, land sold around \$16 per acre.

In Central France good pasture and arable land sold at \$156 to \$195 per acre. Especially good arable land brought \$234 to \$312 per acre.

Orchard lands in the Central Plateau (Limagne) were worth from 5,000 to 10,000 francs per hectare (\$390.53 to \$781.06 per acre), while mountain grazing lands were placed at 500 to 600 francs (\$39.05 to \$46.86 per acre).

Moorlands brought from 100 to 150 francs per hectare (\$7.81 to \$11.72 per acre).

In Southwest France (Guascogne) where the population was declining, land values had fallen to 250 to 300 francs per hectare (\$19.53 to \$23.43 per acre).

Vine lands in Burgundy have been known to reach 68,000 francs per hectare (\$5,311.21 per acre) and were around 55,000 francs in Chamberten (\$4,295.83 per acre). Vine lands which produce ordinary wines sold from 8,700 to 10,000 francs (\$679.52 to \$781.06 per acre) in the Beaune district and from 8,000 to 12,000 francs (\$624.85 to \$937.27 per acre) in the Languedoc district.

The situation concerning land values has changed fundamentally since the war. Land sold much more readily in 1919 with an average increase in values from 25 to 50 per cent and in exceptional cases from 58 to 100 per cent.

However, the increase in land values has not kept pace with the depreciation of the purchasing power of the money. There are a number of reasons why this is so.

1/ La valeur de la terre en France - P. Caziot, Editions 1914 and 1920.

2/ At par the franc before the war was worth 19.30 cents.

While value of capital in land has increased from 30 to 50 per cent, the value of working capital has increased 200 per cent. A farm worth 1,300 francs per hectare (\$101.54 per acre)<sup>1/</sup> calls for a working capital of 1,800 francs per hectare (\$140.59 per acre)<sup>1/</sup> and in the case of market gardening 3,000 francs per hectare (\$234.32 per acre)<sup>1/</sup>. It will be seen that land capital has become a mere adjunct of working capital in the business of agriculture in France.

The taxation on land values is heavier than on personality. Taxation often absorbs the whole income of forest lands. On large estates, it amounts on the average to 13.28 per cent of the total income. On the other hand, personality pays taxes at the rate of 4 per cent on the income.

High land values and low rents make land a safe but unprofitable form of investment to the capitalist or to the absent landlord, even though it still remains a profitable investment to the owner who farms his own acres.

As a result of these conditions, there has been a marked increase in peasant proprietorship since the war. In a majority of cases the purchasers have been actual tillers of the soil, and to a great extent former tenants.

#### The Devastated Area.

One-thirteenth part of the total area of France proper was invaded during the war. The devastated section was far more important agriculturally and industrially than is indicated by its proportion to total area. Its relative importance is brought out by the fact that the invaded territory paid one-fifth of the aggregate taxes before the war. The official figures place the number of buildings destroyed or suffering important damage at 741,993, and the number of factories destroyed at 22,900. In addition, 8,169,991 acres of land were torn up, over half of which - 4,752,917 acres - consisted of cultivated fields.

The progress of land reconstruction is shown in Table 15.

Table 15 - Progress in the Restoration of Agricultural Lands in the Devastated Areas of France, 1921-1923

Class-of Reconstruction	Unit	1921	1922	1923	Estimate for complete restoration
Filling trenches...	cu. ft.	7,731,682	214,9,174,605	228,9,891,812	724,11,759,895,000
Removing barbed wire:	sq. yd. <sup>1/</sup>	297,812,105	329,618,023	343,496,619	441,833,333
Destruction of abandoned explosives..	ton	21,000	22,800	1,035,200	2/
Land restored to cultivation .....	acre	2,488,890	3,642,756	4,196,252	4,752,917

Official circular - France at work to Repair the Damages of War.

<sup>1/</sup> Square yards when pressed into bales.

<sup>2/</sup> No estimate has been made.

<sup>1/</sup> At par - 19.30 cents.

Land reconstruction work is given additional impetus by the action of the government in granting a bounty of 200 francs for each hectare cultivated in wheat and 80 francs for each hectare growing rye. The remuneration applies only to devastated areas.<sup>1/</sup> The government budget<sup>2/</sup> for the fiscal year 1921 carried an item of 67,000,000 francs (\$5,011,600 at average exchange 1921) for payment of the above remunerations. The rapidity of agricultural reconstruction work is also due in a large measure to the policy of giving preferences in order of time to the needs of agriculture and to other productive industries. It is this policy that explains the reason why the reconstruction of agricultural villages is well along toward completion, while some of the larger towns are in the initial stages of rebuilding.

In traveling through the war zone, one is struck by the fact that the work on the rebuilding of an entire village will be in progress at the same time, rather than by separate properties. Inquiry shows this to be the result of the villagers forming themselves into a cooperative building association and letting contracts at one time covering the rebuilding of the entire village. This plan has the added advantage of producing harmonious types of architecture employed.

Observation gained by traveling through the war zone leads one to believe that practically all the good lands have been restored to cultivation. Miles of unfilled trenches and acres of standing wire were still to be encountered in the summer of 1923, but practically all trenches and wire remaining<sup>are</sup> on poor lands agriculturally. Much of the present unrestored areas will be unrestored 10 years hence. Where the damages of war exceed the value of the land, nature is the only reconstruction agency that can be economically employed. Nature works slowly.

Table 16 shows the progress made in replacing livestock in the devastated areas.

Table 16 - Progress made in Replacing Livestock in Devastated Areas in France, 1921 and 1923

Kind	Before the War	Replaced by January 1 -	
		1921	1923
	Number	Number	Number
Cattle .....	892,328	129,975	523,848
Horses .....	407,988	95,695	299,690
Sheep .....	949,774	118,738	407,782
Pigs .....	356,610	3,561	184,251

Official Circular - France at Work to Repair the Damages of War.

1/ Law of August 9, 1920.

2/ Law of July 16, 1921.

This work has not gone forward as rapidly as has the clearing of the land and the construction of buildings. This result is to be expected, however, since it is necessary to put the land in usable form and construct farm buildings before livestock can be properly maintained.

Agricultural Thrift.

Only a superficial understanding of French agriculture can be had, unless one appreciated the thriftiness of the French peasant. The proverbial thrift of the French farmer is so well known as to need no elaboration here, except by way of a reminder. His universal ambition is to own a home and a piece of land. The tender care of his acres far surpasses that usually practiced in our own country. In France the economic goal is a high product per man which is usually obtained at the expense of more acres. These practices have little in common. Yet without doubt, each is best suited to its economic environment.

One who observes farming in many lands is led to believe that agriculture is universally an occupation calling for long hours and permitting of few holidays. Yet in few countries do the farmers apply themselves as energetically as does the French peasant. His application to his land is limited only by his physical endurance.

Every member of his family is involved in the carrying on of the work of the farm. Women and children are employed in the fields and at tasks requiring manual labor to an extent greater than that sanctioned by the accepted farm standard of living in America.

As compared to the United States, France is a nation of small incomes. French income tax returns for the year 1920 show that the yearly incomes of 6,000 francs, (\$420 in 1920) and above were divided as follows:

Table 17 - Incomes in France of 6,000 Francs and over by Number and Size, 1920.

Incomes	Value of Incomes by Size		
	Original Francs	:	U. S. equivalent <sup>1/</sup> Dollars
592,401	: 6,000 - 20,000	:	420 - 1,400
140,443	: 20,000 - 50,000	:	1,400 - 3,500
31,015	: 50,000 - 100,000	:	3,500 - 7,000
16,678	: 100,000 - 500,000	:	7,000 - 35,000
838	: above 500,000	:	above 35,000

781,375 persons with incomes above 6,000 francs (\$420).

Annuaire Statistique de la France, 1922.

<sup>1/</sup> The French franc in 1920 had an average value for the year of seven cents.

In a nation of nearly 40,000,000 people, fewer than 50,000 people had an income in excess of 50,000 francs per year - \$3,500. In 1922, two persons out of every five, maintained savings accounts.

The significant point is not the smallness of the income, but the known ability to save a portion of so small an income.

Saving bank deposits are only one of a number of channels for savings and investments. The number of accounts, however, may be taken as an indication of the ability to save. At the beginning of 1922, two persons out of every five men, women and children in France, maintained saving accounts.

The distribution of these accounts is given in table 18.

Table 18 - Distribution and Amounts of Savings Accounts in France, January 1922.

Savings accounts by size	Depositors	Value of Savings	
		Original	:U.S. Equivalent
20 francs or less .....	Number : 4,405,027	Francs : 53,858,938	Dollars : 4,396,828.26
20 to 100 francs .....	: 4,365,728	: 262,166,407	: 21,402,216.80
100 to 500 francs .....	: 3,044,862	: 1786,879,091	: 64,237,661.47
500 to 1000 francs .....	: 1,117,814	: 832,235,919	: 67,940,411.48
1000 to 1500 francs .....	: 801,512	: 1,011,393,630	: 82,566,132.83
1500 to 3000 francs .....	: 1,349,074	: 2,584,032,485	: 210,950,075.95
3000 to 5000 francs .....	: 506,930	: 1,858,292,270	: 151,703,547.75
Total .....	: 15,590,947	: 7,388,858,770	: 603,196,874.54

Figures compiled by Myron T. Herrick, U. S. Ambassador to France.

1/ Average value of a franc during January 1922 - 8.1636 cents.

Although the vast majority of accounts contain less than 500 francs, between \$20.00 and \$40.00, varying with exchange fluctuations, the number of accounts and the tendency which this number indicates is impressive.

Any nation competing with the agricultural products of France must reckon with the love of the French peasant for his land, his untiring application to it, and his ability to save - three characteristics of a worthy competitor.

#### The Trend of Agricultural Production.

The interest of one nation in the agriculture of another nation centers upon the trend of production. That is, upon knowing the products

which are being grown in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the country, and the products which are being produced in surplus quantities. This knowledge also supplies related interesting facts concerning the products and their probable quantities, which must be supplied by other countries.

A statement of the utilization of land gives a comprehensive basis for estimating the trend of a country's agricultural production. Table 19 gives a summary of the post-war utilization of land in France as compared to its prewar utilization.

Table 19 - Land Utilization in France, Average 1909-13, Annual 1919 - 1922. (Alsace and Lorraine not included)

Classification	: Average : 1909-1913	: 1919	: 1920	: 1921	: 1922
	: Acres	: Acres	: Acres	: Acres	: Acres
Plowed land .....	58,535,334	53,726,113	54,308,775	54,501,735	
Natural meadows..	12,075,708	11,844,665	11,888,179	12,024,306	12,540,720
Pastures 1/ ....	12,799,138	14,235,752	14,336,421	14,344,921	14,362,959
Vineyards .....	4,090,582	3,852,638	3,837,769	3,871,380	3,768,275
Field gardens ...	604,743	679,253	696,476	712,735	
Fruits 2/ .....	2,602,996	2,060,863	2,122,886	2,092,987	
Forests .....	23,608,480	24,430,038	24,430,038	24,475,383	
Non-agr. lands...	9,427,438	12,411,067	11,460,525	11,314,882	
Other surface 3/	7,088,555	7,605,434	7,764,954	7,507,494	
Total area ....	130,832,974	130,845,823	130,845,823	130,845,823	

Statistique Agricole Annuelle de la France.

1/ Includes Moors and Commons.

2/ Includes Nurseries.

3/ Cities, Villages, Farm lands, etc.

It will be seen from the figures in this table that the area devoted to cultivated crops - plowed lands - has fallen from 58,315,600 acres for the five-year period preceding the war to 54,362,000 acres in 1921 - the highest point reached since the war. This decrease amounts to 3,953,600 acres or nearly 7 per cent.

It will also be noticed that the area devoted to natural meadows show a gradual but constant increase, as do the areas devoted to pastures and to woods and forests. Orchards, as well as plowed lands, have markedly diminished in area. In short, intensive types of agriculture seem to be giving way to the more extensive types.

Here are phenomena that will bear further analysis. One is interested in knowing what are the crops occupying diminished areas, the causes of the diminution, as well as the specific uses made of the lands no longer plowed.

In an attempt to answer these questions, consideration is given to each class of products occupying an important place in French agriculture.

Cereals: Tables 20 and 21 give a summary of the pre-war compared with the post-war area and production of cereals and tubers. The production of cereals was greatly diminished during the war. Both area and production have gradually increased since 1919. But as yet (1923) neither the amount devoted to cereals nor their total yield have equalled the five year pre-war average. The 1909-13 average was around 33,500,000 acres, while the 1923 area is estimated around 27,200,000 acres - a decrease of 6,300,000 acres or 19 per cent.

Table 20 - Production of Cereals and Tubers in France, Average 1909-1913, Annual 1919 - 1923.

(Alsace and Lorraine not included.)

Item	Unit	Average		1919	1920	1921	1922	2/	1923	2/
				: 1909-1913:						
: Thousands : Thousands : Thousands : Thousands : Thousands										
Wheat	bushel	317,636	:	182,444	231,017	315,943	239,146	:	283,645	
Meteil 1/	"	5,947	:	3,679	4,318	5,227	4,090	:	4,415	
Rye	"	49,025	:	28,736	32,238	41,908	36,190	:	34,426	
Barley	"	48,183	:	22,964	35,084	34,741	38,190	:	43,020	
Buckwheat	"	22,147	:	12,491	16,972	11,568	17,981	:	15,340	
Oats	"	355,278	:	171,792	282,694	236,968	280,835	:	366,581	
Corn	"	22,289	:	9,976	15,091	10,311	12,493	:	11,735	
Millet	"	659	:	394	381	253	255	:	419	
All cereals	short ton	19,087	:	10,273	14,163	16,001	14,504	:	17,206	
Potatoes	bushel	489,377	:	284,047	389,927	283,996	438,503	:	319,465	
Jerusalem Artichokes	short ton	1,775	:	1,186	1,238	1,314	1,525	:	1,327	
Total Tubers	"	16,456	:	9,707	12,936	9,833	14,680	:	10,911	

Statistique Agricole Annuelle de la France

1/ Wheat and rye mixed.

2/ Provisional figures - Journal Official.

Table 21: Area and yield per acre of cereals and tubers in France,  
 average 1909-13, annual 1919-1923.  
 (Alsace and Lorraine not included)

Crop	Average		1910		1920		1921		1922 2/		1923 2/		
	1909-1913	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	Yield	
	Area	per acre	Area	per acre	Area	per acre	Area	per acre	Area	per acre	Area	per acre	
	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	acres	bushels	
Wheat	16,159	19.7	11,376	16.0	12,298	18.8	12,995	21.3	12,773	18.7	13,368	21.2	
Meteil	1/	324	18.4	238	15.4	251	17.2	255	20.5	245	15.7	227	18.6
Rye	2,960	16.6	1,907	15.1	2,040	16.8	2,118	19.3	2,088	17.3	2,065	16.7	
Barley	1,365	25.8	1,387	16.6	1,522	23.1	1,562	22.2	1,592	24.0	1,625	26.5	
Buckwheat	1,173	18.9	812	15.4	870	19.5	344	15.1	573	20.5	849	18.1	
Oats	9,800	36.3	7,056	24.3	8,026	35.2	8,169	29.0	8,235	34.1	8,287	44.2	
Corn	1,155	19.3	736	13.6	82	16.4	807	13.8	732	16.0	752	15.6	
Millet	552	12.0	46	8.6	10	1.8	40	6.2	39	6.5	33	12.7	
All Cereals	33,491	25,558	25,887	26,790	25,633	27,216							
Potatoes	3,838	127.5	3,104	91.5	3,371	116.1	3,379	111.0	3,382	129.7	3,346	95.5	
Jerusalem													
Artichokes	254	260	284	283	289	293							
Total Tubers	4,092	3,564	3,635	5,650	3,611	3,639							

Statistique Agricole Annuelle de la France.

1/ Wheat and rye mixed.

2/ Provisional figures-- Journal Officiel.

The quantity produced makes a better showing than does area. The five year pre-war average quantity of cereals was about 19,100,000 short tons, while the 1923 production - the highest since the war - was around 17,200,000 short tons as compared to only 10,300,000 short tons for the year 1919.

Although wheat has not reached its pre-war level in either area or production, the year 1923 sees France practically self sufficing in regard to this important food. Her pre-war average was 317,600,000 bushels. This fell to 182,400,000 bushels in 1919 and rose to 283,600,000 bushels in 1923. France estimates her consumption demands under present restrictions at from 301,000,000 to 335,000,000 bushels.

The more important restrictions on the use of wheat is the compulsory milling of lower grade flour together with the compulsory use of 10 per cent rye or rice flours. These regulations are supplemented by a nation-wide "save bread campaign." Hence, France's estimated production of 283,600,000 bushels together with an estimated exportable surplus of 22,000,000 bushels from her North African colonies gives her a small theoretical surplus. However, it is interesting to note in this connection that her net imports of wheat and wheat flour reduced to terms of wheat for the period August to October 31 were much heavier this year than last. For instance, during the period in 1922, the net imports amounted to 10,877,332 bushels while for the same period this year - 1923 - they amounted to 15,663,936 bushels - an increase of 4,786,604 bushels or 44 per cent.

The area and production of rye was about one-third less in 1919 than it was before the war. This cereal shows little tendency toward an immediate recovery. The yield in 1923 was still some 14,600,000 bushels or 30 per cent behind the pre-war average.

Barley is coming back into its own. The 1923 production - 43,000,000 bushels - approaches the 1909-13 average of 48,200,000 bushels. The area also approached its pre-war level.

Buckwheat is still nearly 6,800,000 bushels or 31 per cent behind the pre-war average.

Oats rank second to wheat in importance as a cereal in France. The 5 year pre-war average was roughly 355,000,000 bushels on approximately 10,000,000 acres. The 1923 figures are 367,000,000 bushels on 8,000,000 acres. Hence, area is considerably below that of 10 years ago, but a relatively high yield placed oats this year on a pre-war basis.

Corn shows a decrease of 35 per cent in area and 47 per cent in production.

The decrease of 6,300,000 acres in cereal area today as compared with pre-war conditions is largely due to marked reduction in the acreage of wheat together with smaller reductions in oats, rye, buckwheat and corn. However, no cereal has reached its pre-war acreage. Barley makes the nearest approach to recovering its position.

Tubers: This classification is made up of potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes, potatoes being by far the most important both from the standpoint of area and production. Neither area or production of potatoes are as great as in the 5 year pre-war period. The potato acreage in 1923 was some 491,000 acres short, although the area of artichokes increased some 38,000 acres. Quantity produced of both tubers is still much below pre-war normal. (See Tables 20 and 21)

Vegetables: Vegetables grown on a commercial scale occupy less than 2 per cent of the plowed land area of France. However, it is well to note that crops of this class have not materially decreased since the war. The area was 705,000 acres in 1922 as compared to 743,000 acres in 1909-13. Production is still 158,000 short tons less than before the war.

Summaries of area and production of the products classified as vegetables and forage crops are given in Tables 22 and 23.

Table 22 - Production of Vegetables and Forage Plants in France, Average 1909-13, Annual 1919 - 1923.

(Alsace and Lorraine not included)

Item	Average : 1909-1913	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923 1/
Vegetables:	: 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000					
	: bushels :bushels:bushels:bushels:bushels : bushels					
Beans-green .....	: 6,524 : 6,565: 8,031: 4,443: 6,275 :					
Peas (in shell) ..	: 8,493 : 5,856: 6,098: 6,639: 5,668 :					
Beans, dry:	: : : : : : :					
Haricot .....	: 4,686 : 3,402: 5,065: 3,710: 3,896 : 1,904					
Feves .....	: 2,557 : 1,017: 1,227: 1,147: 1,177 :					
Feveroles .....	: 3,275 : 1,253: 1,784: 818: 1,192 :					
Peas, dry .....	: 1,040 : 515: 642: 450: 495 : 373					
Lentils, dry .....	: 269 : 148: 173: 114: 148 : 100					
Forage Crops:	: Short : Short : Short : Short : Short : Short					
	: tons : tons : tons : tons : tons : tons					
Beets, forage ....	: 24,190 : 11,509: 18,467: 14,465: 20,826 : 17,222					
Rutabagas & turnips:	: 3,194 : 2,242: 2,611: 2,155: 3,310 : 2,484					
Cabbage, forage ..	: 3,459 : 5,006: 6,918: 3,147: 6,250 : 5,609					
Clover .....	: 4,787 : 3,592: 4,300: 3,555) 11,583): 12,353					
Alfalfa .....	: 5,904 : 3,852: 4,646: 3,824) ):					
Sainfoin .....	: 3,042 : 1,921: 2,265: 1,881) ):					
Annual green forage:	16,103 : 9,111: 10,509: 7,500: 10,271 : 8,612					
Temporary prairies :	1,031 : 1,015: 1,119: 1,002: 1,133 : 1,316					

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1/ Provisional figures - Journal Officiel.

Table 23 - Acreage and Yield per acre of Vegetables and Forage Crops in France, Average 1909-13. Annual 1919-1923

(Alsace and Lorraine not included)											
Item	Average :		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923 1/
	: Yield:										
Vegetables	: Area : per acre :										
Beans, green	: 1,000: Bush-acres:										
Peas, in shell....	53:123.1: 63:134.8:	66: 99.5: 55:106.5:	77:104.3: 59:103.4:	62: 71.7: 66:100.6:	62: 101.2: 57: 99.4:						
Beans, dry::											
Haricot....	316: 14.8:	367: 9.3:	392: 12.9:	437: 8.5:	385: 10.1:	274: 6.9					
Feves....	146: 17.5:	86: 11.8:	80: 15.3:	97: 11.8:	88: 13.4:						
Feveroles	92: 24.7:	60: 21.1:	86: 20.7:	63: 13.0:	67: 17.8:						
Peas, dry.	54: 19.3:	34: 15.1:	41: 15.7:	38: 11.8:	34: 14.6:	32: 11.7					
Lentils, dry:	19: 14.2:	11: 13.5:	13: 13.3:	12: 9.5:	12: 12.3:	11: 9.1					
Total vegetables:	743:	679:	748:	775:	705:						
Forage:											
Beets, forage 1,687:	14.3:1,304:	8.8:1,493:	12.4:1,519:	9.5: 1,548:	13.5: 1,578:	10.9					
Potabagas & turnips..	2,805: 7.6:	2,579: 378:	2,383: 5.9:	2,437: 337:	2,674: 6.7:	2,535: 4.7:	2,666: 4.9:	2,535: 4.47:	2,578: 7.4:	2,578: 407:	
Cabbage, forage ..	2,801: 1.7:	2,579: 1.4:	2,383: 1.6:	2,437: 1.9:	2,674: 2,535:	2,535: 1.5:	2,666: 1.3:	2,578: 1.2:	2,578: 7.2	2,578: 7.2	
Clover....	1,918: 2.1:	1,632: 2.579:	1,474: 2.383:	1,485: 2,437:	1,512: 2,674:	1,512: 2,666:	1,578: 1.3:	1,578: 1.7:	1,578: 1.9	1,578: 1.9	
Alfalfa... Sainfoin..	1,888: 1.6:	1,632: 1.6:	1,474: 1.6:	1,485: 1.3:	1,512: 1.5:	1,512: 1.5:	1,578: 1.2:	1,578: 1.2:	1,578: 1.2:	1,578: 1.2:	
Annual green forage...	12,791: 5.6:	11,092: 5.6:	11,609: 5.6:	11,729: 6.2:	11,847: 6.2:	11,971: 6.2:	11,971: 4.4:	11,971: 4.4:	11,971: 5.7:	11,971: 5.2	
Temporary prairies.	680: 1.2:	848: 1.2:	870: 1.3:	906: 1.3:	889: 1.1:	892: 1.1:	892: 1.3:	892: 1.3:	892: 1.5	892: 1.5	
Total forage crops 2/...	12,791:	11,092:	11,609:	11,729:	11,847:	11,971:					

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1/ Provisional Figures - Journal Officiel.

2/ Native prairies, pastures, moors and commons not included.

Forage crops: The acreage of forage beets is only slightly below pre-war normal. Rutabagas and turnips were above the pre-war area in 1922 and only slightly below in 1923 and cabbage, which was considerably below the pre-war average in 1921 and 1922, was above in 1923. The rotation hays - clover, alfalfa, and sainfoin - show marked increases in acreage since 1919. Annual green forage is nearing its former status while temporary prairies have greatly increased in both area and production. A summary showing the status of forage crops is given in Tables 21 and 22.

Industrial plants: Although industrial plants occupy less than 2 per cent of the plowed land area, their importance from the standpoint of value, capital invested and labor required is much greater. The war reduced the production of this class of products more than any other, and it is these products which still show the greatest diminution.

The production of beets for sugar and for alcohol had its center in the invaded territory. This fact explains the drop to 22 per cent of pre-war production in 1919 and the 1923 production of 54 per cent of the 1909-13 average. Tobacco, the fibers and the oil seeds are still below normal in both acreage and yield. Hops is the only crop classed as industrial which has come back.

As a whole, the industrial plants show a decrease in area in 1922 amounting to around 51 per cent of the pre-war average. See tables 24 and 25.

Table 24 - Production of Industrial Plants in France, Average 1909-13, Annual 1919 - 1923.

Item	(Alsace and Lorraine not included)						1/
	Average 1909-1913	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	
Beets for sugar..	6,499	1,375	2,666	2,238	3,120	3,505	
Beets for dis-							
tillery .....	2,154	516	516	415	642	1,189	
Tobacco .....	23	15	19	21	18		
Hops .....	3	1	1	1	5		
Hemp (Fiber)....	15	7	9	6	5		
Flax (Fiber) ....	20	18	28	12	15		
Colza .....	45	39	42	35	24		
Rapeseed .....	6	3	5	4	4		
Poppy .....	4	1	1	1	1		
Total industrial:							
Plants .....	8,769	1,975	3,287	2,733	3,834		

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1/ Provisional figures - Journal Officiel.

Table 25 - Acreage and Production per acre of Industrial Plants in France, Average 1909-13, Annual 1919-1923.

(Alsace and Lorraine not included)							
Item	: Average : : 1909-1913 :	: Yield: : Area : per : acre :					
Cereals for sugar:	609:	10.7:	184:	7.5:	255:	10.5:	295:
Cereals for dis-tillery ....	129:	16.7:	51:	10.1:	43:	12.0:	50:
Tobacco .....	37:	.6:	23:	.7:	26:	.7:	28:
Hops .....	7:	.4:	4:	.2:	4:	.2:	4:
Hemp (Fiber) .....	35:	.4:	19:	.4:	19:	.5:	16:
Flax (Fiber) .....	62:	.3:	52:	.3:	86:	.3:	43:
Colza .....	72:	.6:	57:	.7:	63:	.7:	63:
Canola seed ....	12:	.5:	10:	.3:	12:	.4:	11:
Poppy .....	7:	.6:	2:	.5:	2:	.5:	2:
Total Industrial Plants. :	970:	:	402:	:	510:	:	512:

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1/ Provisional figures - Journal Officiel.

A summary of the after war decreases in the acreage and production of plowed land crops is given in Tables 26 and 27.

Table 26 - Utilization of plow-land under Cultivation in France, Average 1909-13, Annual 1919 - 1923.

(Alsace and Lorraine not included)							
Classification	: Average : : 1909-1913 :	: 1919 :	: 1920 :	: 1921 :	: 1922 :	: 1923 :	1/
	: 1,000 :	: 1,000 :	: 1,000 :	: 1,000 :	: 1,000 :	: 1,000 :	: 1,000
	: Acres :	: Acres :	: Acres :	: Acres :	: Acres :	: Acres :	: Acres
Cereals .....	33,491 :	23,558 :	25,877:	26,790 :	26,633 :	27,216	
Vegetables .....	743 :	679 :	748:	775 :	705 :		
Tubers .....	4,092 :	3,364 :	3,635:	3,660 :	3,670 :	3,639	
Forage Crops ...	12,791 :	11,092 :	11,609:	11,729 :	11,847 :	11,971	
Industrial plants:	970 :	402 :	510:	512 :	494 :		
Fallow .....	6,443 :	14,631 :	11,950:	11,036 :			
	:	:	:	:	:		
Total .....	53,535 :	53,726 :	54,309:	54,502 :			

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1/ Provisional figures - Journal Officiel.

Table 27 - Production of Principal Crops in France, Average  
1909-13, Annual 1919-1923.

Classification	Average 1909-1913	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1/
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	
	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	
Cereals .....	: 19,039	: 10,275	: 14,164	: 16,002	: 14,505	: 17,208	
Vegetables .....	: 518	: 349	: 447	: 330	: 360		
Tubers .....	: 16,456	: 8,605	: 12,936	: 9,833	: 14,680	: 10,911	
Forage Crops ....	: 66,760	: 38,254	: 50,835	: 37,529	: 53,373	: 47,596	
Industrial plants:	: 8,769	: 1,975	: 3,287	: 2,733	: 3,834		

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1/ Provisional figures - Journal Officiel.

The significant fact shown by this summary is that all classes of crops produced on arable land occupy less area and are produced in less quantities than before the war. The 1922 production of forage crops made the nearest approach to its pre-war status.

What type of farming is absorbing the acreage released by these decreases? In the first place the area of plowed land in 1921 decreased some 7 per cent. This reduction is taken up by the increase in natural meadows, pastures, and woods and forests - (Table 19). In the second place, the decrease in area of cultivated crops is accounted for by the marked increase in fallow area - (Table 26). The 1921 fallow area was nearly double that of 1909-13. In a word, tilled crops have given way to natural meadows, prairies, woods and fallow.

Live stock: The trend toward more extensive types of agriculture would lead one to expect an increase in live stock production. Table 28 gives a summary of the number of farm animals in France for different years.

Table 28 - Livestock in France. Average 1909-1913, Annual 1919 - 1922.

(Alsace and Lorraine not included)

Livestock	December 31				
	Average	1919	1920	1921	1922
	1909-1913	Number	Number	Number	Number
Horses & Mules:					
Horses .....	3,222,836	2,413,190	2,542,820	2,610,180	2,677,650
Mules .....	193,148	167,180	178,470	184,120	183,470
Donkeys .....	359,542	303,100	297,540	295,150	290,510
Total .....	<u>3,775,526</u>	<u>2,833,470</u>	<u>3,018,830</u>	<u>3,089,450</u>	<u>3,151,630</u>
Cattle:					
Bulls .....	277,398	231,230	240,550	238,780	242,700
Steers .....	1,840,252	1,261,070	1,318,060	1,358,000	1,363,540
Cows .....	7,656,332	6,327,510	6,575,770	6,702,750	6,886,800
Calves (1 year and over)....	2,802,354	2,721,230	2,770,280	2,754,320	2,791,530
Calves (less than 1 year).	<u>1,975,592</u>	<u>1,832,620</u>	<u>1,877,450</u>	<u>1,837,660</u>	<u>1,833,350</u>
Total ....	<u>14,551,928</u>	<u>12,373,660</u>	<u>12,782,110</u>	<u>12,891,510</u>	<u>13,117,920</u>
Sheep:					
Rams over 1 year:	299,724	184,390	201,790	197,800	197,490
Wethers " " "	2,720,176	1,075,220	1,080,680	1,131,720	1,231,800
Ewes " " "	9,561,782	5,558,880	5,797,810	5,914,610	6,004,280
Lambs under 1 year .....	<u>4,116,882</u>	<u>2,172,500</u>	<u>2,292,080</u>	<u>2,315,250</u>	<u>2,308,830</u>
Total ....	<u>16,698,564</u>	<u>8,990,990</u>	<u>9,372,360</u>	<u>9,559,380</u>	<u>9,742,400</u>
Swine .....	6,973,050	4,080,560	4,583,470	4,794,250	4,840,960
Goats .....	1,420,676	1,174,360	1,228,580	1,252,270	1,265,980

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Livestock production has not increased as compared to pre-war years. On December 31, 1922, there was a slightly smaller number of horses, a small decrease in cattle, a smaller number of goats, and the swine had diminished about one-third in number, while sheep show a 42 per cent decrease below the five year pre-war average.

An increase in the number of livestock has not kept pace with increased meadow prairie and pasture areas and with the decrease in tilled crops. Two conditions have contributed to this result: (1) Working capital - livestock, machinery, etc. - represents a greater portion of the farmers' total capital than does land. It is the belief of many competent observers in France that the French farmer has over-extended himself in land purchases since the war at a sacrifice of capital which should have been expended in livestock and machinery. In other words, tenants well provided in working capital have become landowners with little working capital. (2) The second factor contributing toward decreased tilled crop production without corresponding increased livestock production falls back upon a declining population falling heavily upon rural communities. The lack of man power must be replaced by acres. Each man must farm more acres, therefore - production per acre - the nation taken as a whole - is reduced. More acres are devoted to live stock production, but these acres less intensively handled do not as yet produce as many animals as did a less number of acres before the war.

#### Imports and Exports of Agricultural Products.

As compared to exports, France is distinctly an importer of cereals. However, the quantity ordinarily required is not large. For the year beginning July 1, 1922, she imported less than 86,000,000 bushels of all cereals and cereal products. The largest item is wheat, including flour, which amounted to 44,000,000 bushels. Corn came next with 22,000,000 bushels. See Table 29.

The countries furnishing the bulk of France's cereal imports are shown in Table 30. Canada, Argentina, Australia and the French North African colonies supply the larger part of the cereals imported.

Table 29 - Production, Foreign Trade and Consumption of Cereals  
in France, Average 1909-13; Annual 1919-1923 1/

(Alsace and Lorraine not included in production)

	Average 1909-1913			1919		
Cereal	Production	Supply	Imports	Production	Supply	Imports
Wheat....	317,636	44,081	1,230	360,487	182,444	88,592
Rye .....	49,025	5,316	26	52,315	28,736	6,695
Barley ...	48,183	6,710	783	54,110	22,964	11,869
Buckwheat	22,147	177	155	22,169	12,491	1
Corn .....	22,289	19,793	188	41,994	9,976	17,129
Oats ....	355,278	29,846	122	385,002	171,792	51,325
Total..	814,558	103,923	2,404	916,077	428,403	155,611
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	1920			1921		
Cereal	Production	Supply	Imports	Production	Supply	Imports
Wheat ...	231,017	72,986	1,105	302,898	315,943	21,659
Rye .....	32,238	11,313	16	43,535	41,908	29
Barley ...	35,084	968	2,301	33,751	34,741	4,409
Buckwheat	16,972	2/	7	16,965	11,568	7
Corn ....	15,091	7,716	1,113	21,694	10,311	19,628
Oats ....	282,694	6,400	8,894	280,200	236,968	22,424
Total .	613,096	99,383	13,436	699,043	651,439	68,156
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	1922					
Cereal	Production	Supply	Imports			
Wheat....	239,146	44,133	2,779	280,500		
Rye .....	36,190	614	600	36,204		
Barley ...	38,190	1,410	735	38,865		
Buckwheat	17,981	17	90	17,903		
Corn ....	12,493	21,986	161	34,318		
Oats ....	280,335	17,541	1,031	297,345		
Total..	624,835	85,701	5,396	705,140		

Production figures from Statistiques Agricole Annuelle de la France. Imports and Exports from Documents Statistique sur le Commerce de la France. Flour included in exports and imports of wheat, rye, buckwheat, corn and oats.

1/ Years beginning July 1.

2/ Less than 500 bushels.

Table 30 - Cereals imported into France by countries of origin,  
1920 - 1923.

Cereal and country	Calendar Years			
	1920	1921	1922	1923
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
<u>Wheat and Wheat and rye mixed:</u>				
United States 1/	29,233,499	16,487,733	6,793,309	10,633,366
Australia .....	11,974,597	11,323,994	4,380,779	2,173,434
Argentina .....	34,267,310	3,234,784	6,732,518	18,091,451
Canada .....	14,254,022	1,233,628	2,858,330	9,578,079
Other countries..	2,727,785	8,717,943	4,044,093	11,581,455
Total .....	82,457,213	40,998,082	24,809,029	52,057,785
<u>Wheat flour:</u>	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
United States ..	744,625	434	1,204	1,334
Canada .....	220,477	1	101	---
Other countries..	381,479	33,897	27,976	76,173
Total .....	1,346,581	34,332	29,281	77,507
<u>Oats:</u>	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
United States....	9,338,713	969,859	6,350,116	766,946
Argentina .....	3,953,874	602,696	4,043,347	2,871,450
Canada .....	969,197	622,483	1,439,218	152,324
Algeria .....	1,221,714	4,253,411	5,335,091	2,607,250
Other countries..	3,342,374	3,869,148	7,635,259	2,541,862
Total .....	18,825,872	10,317,597	24,803,031	8,939,832
<u>Barley:</u>				
Algeria .....	1,650,701	2,120,150	1,039,501	1,820,159
Tunis .....	704,168	511,665	281,408	809,056
Australia .....	2/	2/	162,631	4,699
Other countries..	566,058	315,161	944,450	568,704
Total .....	2,929,927	2,946,976	2,427,990	3,202,618
<u>Corn:</u>				
United States....	1,239,178	435,149	3,813,745	2,218,363
Argentina .....	15,430,827	9,018,369	12,628,248	13,998,336
Rumania .....	2/	2/	1,180,272	816,859
Indo China .....	2/	2/	2,028,122	1,732,221
Other countries..	816,108	3,719,022	1,393,949	3,428,201
Total .....	17,536,113	13,172,540	21,044,336	22,193,980
<u>Rye:</u>				
United States....	14,699,068	1,355,235	650	539,607
Other countries..	1,650,710	299,242	9,503	924,058
Total .....	16,349,778	1,654,477	10,153	1,463,665

Compiled from Documents Statistiques sur Le Commerce de la France.

1/ Imports from the U. S. may include some Canadian grain shipped from U. S. ports.

2/ Included in other countries.

Meat and meat products are next to cereal and cereal products in importance as agricultural import commodities. The quantities coming into France during the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 are given in Table 31.

Table 31 - Imports of Meats and Meat Products into France by Countries of Origin, 1920-1923.

Item	Calendar Years			
	1920 1/ Pounds	1921 Pounds	1922 Pounds	1923 Pounds
<u>Fresh and frozen meats:</u>				
Mutton .....	37,426,171	22,921,888	14,445,201	20,775,489
Pork .....	6,802,955	6,604,320	26,483,419	45,770,362
Beef and other ....	293,616,785	116,323,412	78,341,563	125,004,347
<u>Cured meats:</u> 1/				
Pork, ham & bacon..	82,377,745	23,350,021	12,200,477	35,478,848
Beef and other ....	1,323,642	903,666	1,379,198	608,470
<u>Fats:</u>				
<u>Beef:</u>				
United Kingdom ....	13,608,555	10,004,916	6,607,407	6,893,414
United States .....	4,090,635	12,534,474	7,521,434	751,548
Argentina .....	10,485,739	7,222,049	6,855,645	16,088,730
Uruguay .....	4,518,107	2,520,740	1,463,091	3,994,735
Other countries ...	5,699,994	3,122,815	4,623,927	5,472,699
Total .....	38,403,030	35,404,994	27,070,504	33,206,126
<u>Lard:</u>				
United States .....	56,024,838	49,309,406	44,274,100	54,782,105
Other countries ...	21,997,940	9,730,283	4,911,408	10,974,052
Total .....	78,022,778	59,039,629	49,185,508	65,756,163

Compiled from Documents Statistiques sur Le Commerce de la France.

1/ Countries of export not given.

The figures seem to indicate that there is much room for the expansion of the imports in frozen meat. One of the difficulties in this expansion is the Frenchman's prejudice against frozen meats. The statement is made that the Frenchman prefers horsemeat to frozen meat. Although this statement is somewhat extreme, nevertheless, it has a basis as is shown by the fact that in 1919 (latest available data) 72,437 horses, mules and donkeys were slaughtered in Paris alone, yielding 39,405,351 pounds of salable meat.

Other agricultural products grown in France which play an important role as imports and exports are potatoes, sugar and wines. See Table 32. However, the demand for these three products has little direct interest to American agriculture. The importation of potatoes from America is prohibited for pathological reasons. Sugar has become an important import only since the beginning of the war, due largely to the destruction of sugar beet area in the invaded territory. This is probably a temporary condition. Sugar

beet production is rapidly assuming pre-war proportions. Although France exports a large quantity of wine, she imports more than she exports.

Table 32 - Production, Imports, Exports and Consumption of Potatoes, Sugar and Wine, Average 1909-1913, Annual 1919 - 1923.

	Average 1909 - 1913				1919		
Item	Production	Import	Export	Supply	Production	Import	Export
Potatoes:							
Bushels:	489,377	6,645	8,476	487,546	284,047	7,452	3,784
Sugar, :							
Pounds :	1,518,831	348,119	380,465	1,486,485	341,938	1,661,953	177,889
Wine, :							
Gallons:	1,223,540	207,850	45,242	1,386,148	1,440,116	182,567	37,003
	1920 <sup>1/</sup>				1921 <sup>1/</sup>		
Item	Production	Import	Export	Supply	Production	Import	Export
Potatoes:							
Bushels:	427,610	1,549	11,510	417,649	305,324	14,417	3,853
Sugar, :							
Pounds :	672,496	649,116	162,463	1,159,144	2/ 599,651	1,228,205	246,997
Wine, :							
Gallons:	1,566,015	99,390	43,825	1,621,580	1,265,462	181,851	30,024
	1922 <sup>1/</sup>						
Item	Production	Import	Export	Supply			
Potatoes:							
Bushels:	3/ 350,311	8,942	7,307	351,946			
Sugar, :							
Pounds :	2/ 967,819	1,042,447	308,690	1,701,576			
Wine, :							
Gallons:	1,354,676	229,603	27,647	2,056,632			

Production - Statistique Agricole Annuelle, France. Imports and Exports - Documents Statistiques sur le Commerce de la France.

1/ Includes Alsace and Lorraine.

2/ From Journal Agric. Pratique, October 20, 1922.

3/ International Institute of Agriculture.

Table 33 gives a list of the more important agricultural exports. It will be seen that no commodities are exported in large quantities.

Table 33 - Principal Agricultural Products Exported from France, 1921 - 1923.

Product	Unit	Calendar Years		
		1921	1922	1923
Live poultry .....	Pound	104,495	266,316	972,890
Fresh & frozen meat. :	"	10,093,320	10,221,628	26,719,311
Hams & bacon .....	"	6,887,832	4,676,833	2,359,804
Dead poultry .....	"	5,246,728	6,587,565	11,113,830
Canned meats .....	"	9,658,573	37,959,905	17,124,451
Offal .....	"	4,296,986	5,085,130	4,919,565
Wool .....	"	69,950,415	93,087,030	85,553,912
Eggs of poultry .....	"	2,175,940	9,882,560	46,144,924
Fresh milk .....	"	4,778,691	8,604,333	24,229,656
Condensed milk .....	"	8,096,614	4,540,594	2,868,185
Cheese .....	"	17,120,703	22,019,324	33,226,188
Fresh butter .....	"	2,370,386	5,100,783	15,178,230
Wheat & wheat & rye .....				
mixed .....	Bushel	249,972	676,022	486,743
Wheat flour .....	Barrel	307,187	478,535	503,736
Oats .....	Bushel	4,677,369	458,543	2,635,310
Barley .....	"	745,343	480,681	989,636
Rye .....	"	529,482	854,306	310,341
Corn .....	"	445,050	118,863	107,053
Potatoes .....	"	8,666,727	5,144,974	8,061,715
Apples & pears .....	Pound	41,139,820	34,764,337	53,717,504
Nuts .....	"	36,080,484	40,734,174	47,561,379
Vegetable oils .....	"	137,705,930	86,797,307	107,002,245
Flax .....	"	103,948,654	99,823,186	144,479,784
Forages .....	"	408,013,479	546,632,113	579,407,020

Compiled from Documents Statistiques sur le Commerce de la France.

RESUME AND CONCLUSIONS.

Five years of reconstruction and readjustment furnish a rather meager basis for conclusions. However, the post-war data on French agriculture point in rather definite directions. Interpretations of statistical facts contain elements of opinion. Perhaps it is well to keep the facts and the opinions separate. The facts are these:

The plowed land area in 1922 was less than before the war. This area has gradually increased since 1919.

Natural meadows and pastures were greater in 1922 than before the war. Both have increased since 1919.

There has been little change in area of vineyards.

Forest areas are greater than before the war and have increased since the close of the war.

The above land categories occupy over 95 per cent of all the agricultural lands of France.

Practically all the strictly agricultural land in the invaded territory has been restored to cultivation.

Livestock is less in number than before the war, but is gradually increasing.

Cereals, livestock and livestock products are the largest items of agricultural imports.<sup>1/</sup>

France is not an exporter of agricultural products in large quantities.

Below is the author's interpretation of the above statistical facts.

The agriculture of France is tending toward self-sufficiency in those products which are fairly well adapted to her climatic conditions. The well defined policy of the government to encourage wheat production as well as to eliminate waste in the consumption of wheat products is tending toward self-sufficiency in cereal production.

Increased areas in fallow, meadows, pastures and woods are the results of a shortage of farm labor together with a dwindling rural

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<sup>1/</sup> Reference is made here to only those products of which France produces a portion of her requirements. Hence, no consideration is given to her imports of cotton and tropical agricultural products.

population. These are indications that man labor is becoming relatively more scarce than is land area. Hence, areas must take the place of men with the result that an acre produces less but that the man produces more. The above indications point toward increased livestock production. As a result one may reasonably expect the demand for foreign meat and meat products to become less.

The agricultural production of France in 1922 was considerably less than during the five-year period immediately preceding the war. Even though this be the case, it is quite possible for her more extensive methods to feed a population declining in numbers.

The figures pertaining to the production of material things may lean toward a declining agriculture in France. But there are many things of an immaterial nature which lead the student to hesitate in adopting that conclusion. One of these "things" is the large number of small holdings indicative of the many people who are actively engaged in working the land they own - a happy circumstance.

This fact, taken together with the proverbial thriftiness of the French peasant and his diligent application to the land, tend to maintain a healthy state in French agriculture.

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